FRIDAY FACTS
FROM JEFF GOVE, STATE ABLE DIRECTOR
ADULT BASIC AND LITERACY EDUCATION
October 29, 2010

Ohio 2012-2013 Biennium Budget

Work on the Ohio 2012 – 2013 Biennium Budget has begun. Currently, all program offices at the Ohio Board of Regents are providing input to the Chancellor as he establishes an agency budget to be submitted to the Governors’ office. Establishing a final agency and state biennium budget is a process that will continue over the next few months.

Here’s what we know:
- Higher education is showing results. We are enrolling more students, creating affordable options for students, and finding new ways to save money.
- Higher education generates income for the state. College graduates make more money and are more likely to be employed, generating more income taxes and sales taxes.
- Support for Ohio’s 10-year Strategic Plan for Higher Education, for colleges, universities, adult workforce education centers, ABLE programs, training programs, and for related organizations, has been bi-partisan and unequivocal during a very challenging economic time.

State GED Testing Update

The following clarifications are from Sharon Bowman, Ohio Department of Education’s State GED Administrator.

What is the requirement for the new GED Testing Accommodations Tag Line?

GED Practice Centers: are not required to print the statement, “Accommodations Available Upon Request” on all brochures and marketing materials. They are expected to verbalize this with students.
GED Test Centers: **do have** this new requirement of printing the statement, "Accommodations Available Upon Request" on all brochures and marketing materials.

**When will the NEW GED Test be available?**
This is not expected for some time. The current GED 2002 Test series will continue to be the only version available for testing until GEDTS publishes a new, updated version. The Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Board of Regents will keep test centers and practice centers apprised of any changes to the current test series.

**What if a student leaves the room during an actual GED test?**
If a student must leave the testing room during a test, the examiner must collect the test and the student will NOT be allowed to continue on that test. A student MAY return to take any remaining test(s). All tests will be scanned and scored. The student will need to reapply to take the test he/she did not complete. (Waiting Period - Examiner will need to contact the State GED Office for approval.)

**What happens if a GED test is damaged?**
Regardless of the cause, (example, a student spills coffee on a test and ruins it) the student must pay the $200.00 for any damaged test. The student’s test will not be scanned and/or scored until payment is made to test site. **Make sure students are told this up front.**

**What is the required distance needed between test takers?**
Students should be three feet apart. As an example, if students are sitting at a six-foot table, the students should sit on the ends and face each other.

**What is the expected protocol to deal with students’ personal belongings?**
Each center is different. It is recommended that personal belongings (cell phones, purses) not be on the person. Testing sites should have a space in the test room where students can store items such as tables, lockers, etc. Cell phones should be in OFF mode! **Note:** This same guidance applies to administering the Official Practice Test.

For answers to other GED Test-related questions, please contact: Sharon M. Bowman, State GED Administrator, Office of Assessment, Ohio Department of Education, 25 S. Front Street, Columbus, OH 43215, (614) 387.0935, (614) 752.9445 fax, sharon.bowman@ode.state.oh.us
**Assistive Technology Grant for Colleges and ABLE Programs**

Congratulations to the Southeastern Ohio Assistive Technology Consortium (SEOAT-C). This collaborative includes the Stevens Literacy Center and the Disability Services Office at Ohio University, seven postsecondary institutions and six Adult Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE) programs.

The Ohio Board of Regents (OBR) and the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (ORSC) awarded a grant totaling more than $125,000 to the SEOAT-C. The grant allowed the SEOAT-C to provide each partner with a suite of powerful assistive technology software that enables students with disabilities to gain greater access to college materials. In addition, the partners received high speed scanners to assist students who access print materials via a screen reader or text-to-speech software.

A workshop was held on September 24 at Ohio University in Athens. The training provided an overview of each of the software packages with examples of how to utilize the software with students. Angela Paprocki, Director of the Office of Accessibility from the University of Toledo also presented an overview of a virtual lab which provides access to assistive technology from any wired computer via a login. This would enable college students who need assistive technology, to work at home or any other locations with wireless access.

The Phase 1 partners include Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center – ABLE, Buckeye Career Center ABLE, Central Ohio Technical College/OSU –Newark, Eastern Gateway Community College, Eastern Gateway Community College ABLE, Gallia/Jackson/Vinton JVS ABLE at The Workstation, Mid-East Career and Technology Centers ABLE, Morgan County Learning Center, Ohio University – Athens, Ohio University – Lancaster, Shawnee State University, University of Rio Grande, and Zane State College.

The SEOAT – C was recently awarded additional funds through the OBR and RSC to support Phase 2 of this project which will add additional partners in southeast Ohio to the consortium and provide follow-up training as well as onsite support for the partners.

Phase 2 partners include Ohio University-Chillicothe, Ohio University-Southern, South Central ESC ABLE and The WorkStation ABLE program.

For more information about this grant contact Sharon Reynolds by e-mail at reynols1@ohio.edu or by phone at 740.593.4419.
Administrators’ Meeting

The OBR State ABLE Staff extends our thanks to each ABLE professional who presented at the Administrators’ Meeting. It is always great when we have colleagues talking with colleagues. The information shared provided examples of how to collaborate with partners. We appreciated all your time and energy in preparing for the Administrators’ Meeting. To make the materials available to all, we would like to put the presentations and the additional materials on the web. Please send any presentation materials, web sites, and handouts that you want on the web to Sharon Brannon at sbrannon@regents.state.oh.us by November 5, 2010.

We want to continually improve these meetings. Please take a moment to complete the survey for the meeting. Remember that you will receive your Certification once you have completed the survey. The survey will be closed at the close of business on November 10th. The survey link is: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/admin2010fall

See some images from the Administrators’ Meeting on the attachment.

CASAS Launches New Adult Low-Level Literacy Curriculum

CASAS announces the availability of ten online, theme-based literacy curriculum modules. The standards-based modules target low-level literacy learners, including those with intellectual disabilities, in beginning and pre-beginning Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes, community-based adult programs, and postsecondary education programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities.

The field-tested modules follow principles of universal design for learning (UDL) and apply academic content standards in a functional life and work-based contexts. Lessons in each module are structured in a tiered approach with four skill levels. Module themes include topics such as “Get and Hold the Job You Want”, “Make Your Money Count”, and “Get the Help You Need.”

Special features include strategies to meet individual differences and to increase ability to learn; such as, alternate formats, metacognitive skills, self-determination skills, and community infusion.

To download the free, unlimited access Adult Low-Level Literacy Curriculum, visit https://www.casas.org/LowLiteracyCurriculum
Announcing a Webinar by the Workforce Strategy Center

The Workforce Strategy Center (WSC) works with state and national leaders to develop effective education and employment policies. WSC conducts research on strategies to help students and workers succeed and regional economies grow. Recently, WSC conducted the first national survey of BridgeConnect programs.

On November 4, 2010, Whitney Smith of The Joyce Foundation and Julian L. Alssid, Executive Director of WSC will present the findings and implications from the survey of 515 bridge programs. Bridge programs assist adult students in obtaining academic, employability, and technical skills required to enter and succeed in postsecondary education, training, and careers. The survey findings capture a myriad of efforts underway across the country.

To register go to: https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/384910432

Grant Opportunity

E Pluribus Unum Prizes now accepting applications!

The E Pluribus Unum Prizes national awards program provides four $50,000 prizes annually to exceptionally successful immigrant integration initiatives. The program highlights and rewards outstanding efforts that help immigrants and their children join mainstream U.S. society or that bring immigrants and the native born together to build stronger, more cohesive communities.

The J.M. Kaplan Fund is providing support for these awards to focus attention on successful integration initiatives, and to provide program models to others around the United States who might also undertake such efforts. For more information: http://www.migrationinformation.org/integrationawards/

Reminders

1. EL/Civics Report – The FY 2010 EL/Civics End-of-year report is due to the OBR ABLE office no later than November 12, 2010.

Election Day is **November 2, 2010**. Polls in Ohio are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Please do your part and vote. Encourage your staff and students to do the same.